

By: Bonnen, Goldman, et al.

H.B. No. 574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the elements of the criminal offense of election fraud;  
3 increasing criminal penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Sections 276.013(a) and (b), Election Code, are  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or  
8 intentionally makes any effort to:

9 (1) influence the independent exercise of the vote of  
10 another in the presence of the ballot or during the voting process;

11 (2) cause a voter to become registered, a ballot to be  
12 obtained, or a vote to be cast under false pretenses; ~~or~~

13 (3) count invalid votes that the person knows to be  
14 invalid or alter a report to include invalid votes that the person  
15 knows to be invalid;

16 (4) fail to count valid votes that the person knows to  
17 be valid or alter a report to exclude valid votes that the person  
18 knows to be valid; or

19 (5) ~~(3)~~ cause any intentionally misleading  
20 statement, representation, or information to be provided:

21 (A) to an election official; or

22 (B) on an application for ballot by mail, carrier  
23 envelope, or any other official election-related form or document.

24 (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the second

1 degree [~~Class A misdemeanor~~].

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.